

(4) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking "paragraph (2)" and inserting "paragraph (1)".

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, as in executive session, that on Tuesday, November 13, at 2:15 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 511, that the Senate vote immediately on confirmation of the nomination, that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions, and the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that request be modified—that the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee be given 15 minutes equally divided, and the vote occur at 2:30 rather than at 2:15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCAIN. Reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I have a question for the majority whip. I was told that it might be the intention to take up the Internet tax issue; is that correct or incorrect?

Mr. REID. That decision has not been made as yet.

Mr. MCCAIN. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BAYH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Nevada.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF TERRY L. WOOTEN TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Terry Wooten to be U.S. District Judge, that the Senate vote immediately on his confirmation, that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise to express my strong support for the nomination of Terry Wooten to be a judge on the District Court for the District of South Carolina. I was pleased to recommend him to President Bush for this esteemed position.

Just hours ago, Judge Wooten was favorably reported to the floor by the Judiciary Committee in an 19-0 vote. The Committee's unanimous vote and the Senate's speed in considering him

today is a testament to his qualifications, character, and ability.

Judge Wooten has spent almost all of his professional life in public service. He has served ably and diligently as a U.S. Magistrate Judge since 1999. Prior to that, he worked as a federal prosecutor for seven years. In the U.S. Attorney's office, he served as the lead Task Force attorney for major drug and violent crime prosecutions.

Moreover, he was the Republican chief counsel on the Judiciary Committee while I was Ranking Member, and did an exceptional job in that capacity.

It is unfortunate that some allegations were raised during the committee's consideration of his nomination. However, once the investigation of this matter was complete, it was clear that there was no merit to them whatsoever.

During the Judiciary executive business meeting earlier today, Chairman LEAHY and Senator BIDEN, who was chairman of the committee at the time Judge Wooten was a staff member, both spoke favorably of his nomination. I appreciated their remarks. I was also very pleased that all members of the committee supported his candidacy.

Judge Wooten is a man of honesty and integrity, and this process has simply reaffirmed that fact. I am confident that he will make an excellent addition to the District Court.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate my fellow South Carolinian, Terry Wooten, who will be confirmed today to the U.S. District Court for South Carolina.

Terry Wooten graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of South Carolina in 1976 where he continued on to law school. Following law school, he worked in a private two-man firm that focused on criminal defense and personal injury cases. Two years later, he served as Assistant Solicitor for Richland County where he handled hundreds of cases including murders, criminal sexual conduct, robberies, drug offenses, burglaries, and many other local offenses for 4 years. As a result of his notable service as a local prosecutor, Senator THURMOND invited him to move to Washington and work as the chief counsel of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee minority staff for 5 years. He then served with distinction as Assistant U.S. Attorney for South Carolina for 7 years. In this challenging position, he was assigned to the major drug and violent crime section. Judge Wooten excelled in this role and also served as the chief liaison between the relevant Federal agencies and the U.S. Attorney's office on drug and violent crime cases in the state. He is well known and respected by all local law enforcement agencies for his hard work with violent crime and drug offenders. In 1999, this humble, yet very capable man was chosen to be a magistrate judge where he did a marvelous job.

Terry Wooten comes to the U.S. District Court for the District of South

Carolina judgeship with extensive experience as a State prosecutor in Richland County, as the Assistant U.S. Attorney, and as a Magistrate Judge. He was chosen for the position of Magistrate Judge by the judges of the Federal District Court for the District of South Carolina. I can think of no better testament to his character and qualifications and am pleased he will be joining their ranks. He will serve our judicial system well.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I congratulate the nominee and his family on his nomination and on what is soon to be his confirmation by the Senate and appointment by the President to the United States District Court for South Carolina. I thank all members of the Judiciary Committee for their attention to this nomination and thank the majority leader for his help in scheduling this vote.

Since July 2001, when the Senate was allowed to reorganize and the committee membership was set, we have maintained a strong effort to consider judicial and executive nominees. With the confirmation of Judge Wooten, we reach additional milestones. Judge Wooten is the 17th judicial nominee we have confirmed since July. That is more total judges this year than were confirmed in 1989, the first year of the first Bush administration, and as many as were confirmed in all of the 1996 session. Of course, in 1996, the Senate majority at that time did not proceed on a single nominee to a Court of Appeals and limited itself to confirming only 17 judges to the District Courts. We have this year already confirmed four nominees to the Courts of Appeals.

Thus, despite all the upheavals we have experienced this year with the shifts in chairmanship and, more importantly, the need to focus our attention on responsible action in the fight against international terrorism, we have matched or beaten the number of confirmations of judges during the first year of first Bush administration and the last year of the first Clinton term.

As a judge on the United States District Court, Judge Wooten will have a vital role to play in protecting and preserving our civil liberties in the days ahead. Our system of checks and balances requires that the judicial branch review the acts of the political branches.

Judge Wooten served as the Republican Chief Counsel of the Judiciary Committee when he worked for Senator THURMOND. Senator THURMOND has been an advocate for this nominee from the beginning. Earlier today the Judiciary Committee considered the Wooten nomination and voted without objection to report it to the Senate. Our bipartisanship in these matters was amply demonstrated by our moving as soon as possible in the wake of a serious allegation of wrongdoing to consider and report a former Republican staff member for the respected senior Republican in the Senate.

I held an expeditious hearing for Judge Wooten on August 27, during the